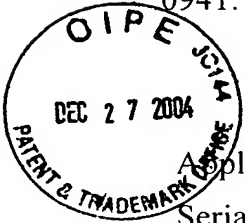


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hisashi Umeda  
Serial No.: 10/798,102  
Conf. No.: 5914  
Filed: 03/11/2004  
For: MAGNETIC RECORDING  
MEDIUM, MAGNETIC  
STORAGE APPARATUS  
AND RECORDING  
METHOD  
Art Unit: 1773

*I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.*

12/22/2004  
Date

*Jan K. Folker*  
Registration No. 37,538  
Attorney for Applicant

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

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Facsimile: (312) 360-9315  
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By:

*Jan K. Folker*  
James K. Folker, Reg. No. 37,538

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce  
(Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office

Attorney Docket No.: 0941.70006

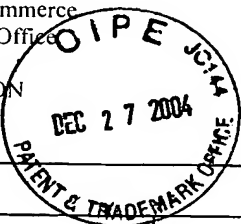
Serial No.: 10/798,102

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Hisashi Umeda

Filing Date: 3-11-04

Group: 1773



### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	2003/108774	Jun. 12, 2003	Umezawa et al.			
	2003/059648	Mar. 27, 2003	Honda et al.			
	2002/064689	May 30, 2002	Matsunuma et al.			
	2002/039668	Apr. 4, 2002	Abarra et al.			
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	6,567,236	May 15, 2003	Margulies et al.			
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### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	1 302 931	Apr. 16, 2003	Europe			X	

### OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


Examiner

Date Considered

\*Examiner:

Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.